

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #53

Summer Announcement #48, District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 111,600 Chinook salmon through July 8 is well below the historical average of 135,000 for this date. Based on the assessment information to date, the current projection is for a total run size similar to the poor run of 2012. Additional measures have been taken in Districts 1-3 to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement and are being similarly implemented in District 4 based on migratory timing.

Because of the large size of Subdistrict 4-A and the time it takes salmon to migrate through this section of river, this management area will be further subdivided. This strategy is intended to allow for more management precision and flexibility when a reduced subsistence fishing schedule is implemented to conserve Chinook salmon. Subdistrict 4-A, will be divided into two separate management areas.

Subdistrict 4-A Lower (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik and Grayling):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A Lower is currently closed. The 48-hour subsistence salmon fishing period scheduled to begin 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, will be reduced to a 24-hour subsistence salmon fishing period.

Subsistence salmon fishing will be open from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 11. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels must be equipped with a chute or a live box. Fish wheels must be closely attended while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive.

Subdistrict 4-A Upper (from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A Upper is currently closed. The 48-hour subsistence salmon fishing period scheduled to begin 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, will be reduced to a 24-hour subsistence salmon fishing period.

Subsistence salmon fishing will be open from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 11. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels must be equipped with a chute or a live box. Fish wheels must be closely attended while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C is currently closed will and remain closed during the next subsistence salmon fishing period which was scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, to conserve Chinook salmon..

The department will notify fishermen by July 13 concerning the subsistence salmon fishing schedule in District 4.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 or in Fairbanks call (907) 459-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Fairbanks at 459-7274 or in Emmonak at 949-1320. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be contacted in Fairbanks at 456-0418.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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